CAS

COMITE AFGHAN DE SOLIDARITE

کمیته همبستگی افغان ها

(برای افغان مهاجرین)



OFF JAMRUD ROAD, PESHAWAR
PO BOX 86 TEL 44510

INTRODUCTION

Comite Afghan De Solidarite was conceived by a few young Afghans who migrated to Canada during the early eighties. Keeping in view the plight of Afghan Refugees in Pakistan and Iran, these young people started exploring the possibilities of a voluntary organisation which, like many others working in Pakistan, could contribute in this humanitarian work for their own people.

Mr. Mohammad Nadir, a young enterprising businessman, who had seen the trauma of the refugees migration from Afghanistan to Pakistan, ventured into this noble cause. After contacting International Development and Refugees Foundation, CCIC and the Government of Cubec of Canada and some Afghan settlers in that country, M. Nadir applied for registration of this Organisation with the Government of Pakistan (Ministry of States and Frontier Regions) through the Afghan Refugees Commissionerate NWFP Peshawar. The Government of Pakistan allowed the Voluntary Agency to work in the camps in Peshawar area in the fields of Health, Education and Vocational Training. Copy of the letter authorising the Voluntary Agency is annexed as Annex 'A'.

In Peshawar the Voluntary Agency got such dedicated people as Doctor Mohammad Ayub Zhian, Engineer Mohammad Ibraheem and Raees Ghulam Qadir to assist in organising and running of the Agency. An office of the Agency was opened in Peshawar in January 1988 and a modest programme of two Basic Health Units and two Primary Schools in Refugees Camps, Badaber 6 and Khairabad, got started. In both these camps, the Refugees were new arrivals and un-registered. These refugees did not have facilities of Ration, Health, Education and other assistance from the UNHCR or the Govt. of Pakistan. They had to fend for themselves through labour or small business in Peshawar and around. Alongwith the establishment of BHUs and the Schools, the Organisation also started efforts for the Registration of the Refugees in these camps so that they could get all the facilities from the UNHCR, WFP, Government of Pakistan and other Voluntary Agencies as is available to other registered refugees. In a few months, the efforts were successful and now both the camps are properly registered and the refugees living there are getting their rations and other facilities as authorized.

Simultaneously, the Comite also started assisting the Carpet Weavers of Khairabad Camp by providing them raw material, daily wages and marketting facilities. Initially, eight looms were installed, where twenty four workers (one weaver and two apprentice per loom) started this carpet centre. Today there are sixteen looms in the camp and the carpet weaving project has also been extended to Badaber Camp No. 6 and a new centre has opened in the premises of the Comite's office at Peshawar, where ten looms are functioning weaving quality carpets.



Dr. Mehro examining a child at Khewa Camp.

STRUCTURE

Comite Afghan De Solidarite has got two bodies for advice and execution of work:-

(a). Advisory Board.
(b). Executive Committee.

Advisory Board.

The following personnel are members of the Advisory Board:-

Brigadier (Retired) Fahimullah Khattak,
Ex-Commissioner Afghan Refugees N.W.F.P.

Professor Mohammad Rasul Amin,
Director WUFA (Writers Union of Free Afghanistan)

M. Nadir,
President, Executive Committee of Comite Afghan De Solidarite

Raees Ghulam Qadir

Dr. Mohammad Ayub Zhian

Engineer Mohammad Ibraheem

Mr. Mohammad Homayun

Mr. Mohammad Hamid Sheikh,
Director, International Development and Refugees Foundation, Canada

M. Nasir Razai

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed as under:-

President Mohammad Nadir, Comite Afghan De Solidarite, 5241 - Boul St Laurent, Montreal, P.Q. H2T 1S4, Canada.

Director Administration - Raees Ghulam Qadir

Director Health - Doctor Mohammad Ayhub Zhian

Director Education and Vocational Training - Engineer Mohammad Ibraheem

Director Finance - Mr. Mohammad Homayun

FUNCTION OF ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board meets once a quarter to formulate and oversee the progress of the Annual Development Programmes chalked out in the beginning of the year. This board also suggests ways and means to improve the working of the Committee and tries to keep abreast with the situation in Afghanistan. It is the intention of the Comite that apart from the humanitarian work for the betterment of Afghan Refugees in

Pakistan, planning of Projects in Afghanistan for the rehabilitation of refugees in their own country is also taken in hand.

FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is responsible for the following:-

Preparation of annual budget.

Preparation of Annual Development Programme.

Detailed project papers.

Supervision and implementation of projects.

Submission of progress reports to the Advisory Board and other agencies.

The Committee meets every month to review the progress of all Projects, — on-going or planned — and take decision regarding any other administrative matters with regard to the functioning of the Comite.



Class in progress in an under-construction school of the Comite.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Basic Health Unit Khewa (Jallozai)

This Basic Health Unit (BHU), initially started functioning as a part time clinic in Camp No: 6, Badaber. In January 1989, however, it was shifted to Camp Khewa (Jallozai), as there were no medical facilities available in that camp. It is functioning as a permanent unit in Khewa since then. From Jan., 1988 till Dec., 1988 it has treated about 15,000 patients.

Basic Health Unit Camp, Khairabad

This BHU was established in March 1988. Dr. Naeem was engaged to visit the camp twice a week. Later the frequency of the visits increased to three days a week. Todate, it has treated about 16,000 patients.

Two Primary Schools at Camp Khewa (Jallozai Area) and Khairabad

These Schools were opened in February 1988. The capacity of each school is approx 200 students. Books and Uniform are given free. The syllabus adopted in the schools is the one approved by the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees NWFP (Education Cell). There are four teachers — all Afghans, teaching in the Schools. The salaries of the teachers is almost the same as given by the Commissionerate/UNHCR in the schools run by them in camps. The total number of students from Class 1 to Class 6 in both the schools is about 300.

Assistance to Carpet Weavers

The Comite started assistance to the Carpet Weavers in Camps, Badabedr 6, Khairabad and Haryana in the way of daily wages and material. The Agency also assisted the weavers in marketing their products in Peshawar. New designs are also introduced in these camps to improve the marketing. Total assistance in this project during the year 1988, comes to Rs. 2,85,780.

Carpet Weaving Centre at Peshawar

This Carpet Weaving Centre was started in February 1989 with a

view to providing job opportunities to the skilled carpet weavers coming from Turkman areas. This Centre will also train apprentices so that they can carry the skill while in Pakistan and later in their own country. It is intended to export these carpets to Europe, USA and Canada and as such becomes a revolving project. Initially 10 looms have been set up in the Centre which will be increased in due course of time. Apart from this centre, which is working in the premises of the Committee's office at Peshawar, two Carpet Weaving Centres for ladies have also been set up in Badaber Camp No. 6 and Khairabad. More centres for the ladies will be considered after evaluating the results of the existing projects. These centres also have young weavers in the craft, so that they can become useful citizens in future.

Aid to shelterless Afghan Refugees

Besides the Health and Eduction assistance, the Comite has given aid to Afghan Refugees to construct mud houses for themselves in Camp Badaber No. 6. Electricity and Water facilities have also been provided to the Camp. There are still a number of shelterless refugees in the camps who need assistance.

Distribution of Relief Goods

Relief goods mainly blankets, shoes, food items, tents, cloth and used clothes were also distributed in various camps in District Peshawar and Bajaur Agency, during the year 1988.

O.P.D. in Peshawar

An Out-patients department in the premises of the Comite's office which is treating approx 200 patients a day including male, female and children, has started functioning from May 1989. One male doctor and one lady doctor with appropriate staff is manning the OPD. Medicines are given free to all the patients.

PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES CAMPS IN PAKISTAN

Programme to Combat Mal-nutrition

It is proposed to register malnourished children for provision of

protein rich food such as pulses, cooking oil, honey, eggs, bananas, high protein biscuits and milk etc. It is intended to treat 300 malnourished children in a month, costing Rs. 400 / - per patient.

Health Education

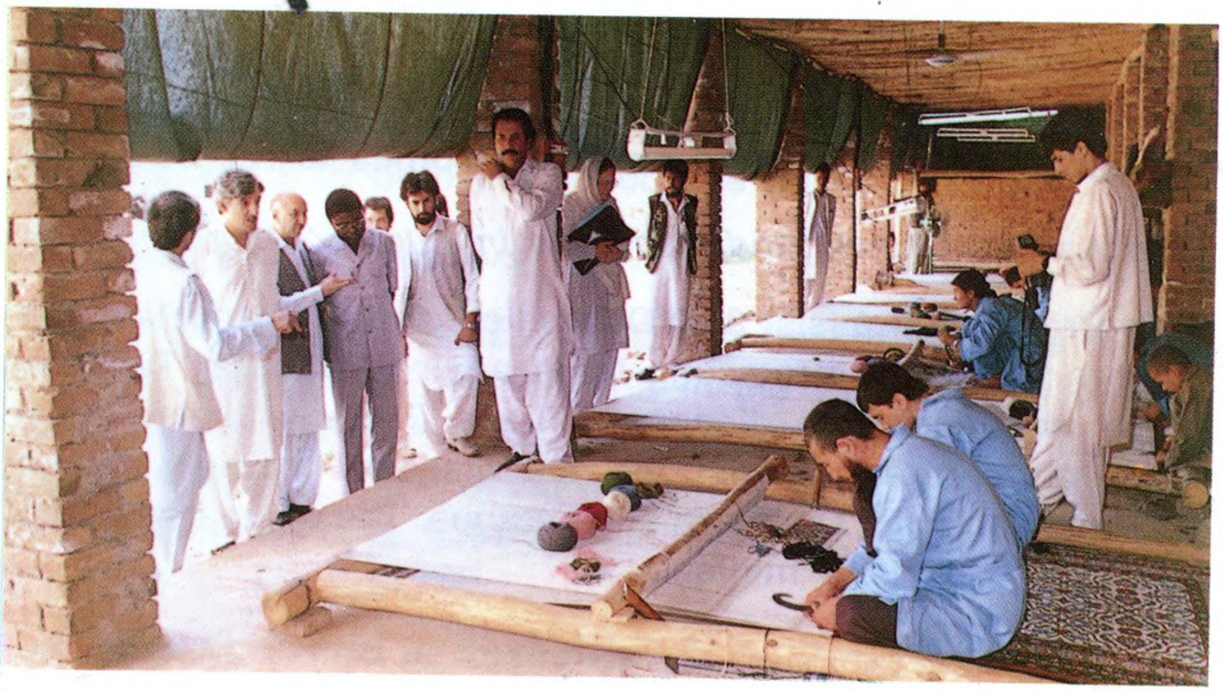
The Health Education Programme has also started in the OPD where the waiting lady patients are given health education by the Lady Health Educator on vaccination, sanitation, hygiene, dehydration and communicable diseases.

Anti T.B. Programme

It is proposed to launch an anti T.B. programme by locating T.B. Patients amongst the people visiting the O.P.D. or the two BHUs at Khewa and Khairabad. Italian Cooperation for Development (ICD) is being contacted to support this programme as is being done by the ICD in case of other clinics and BHUs.

Immunization Programme

The Comite plans to immunize children and expecting mothers against the six diseases namely, Polio, Whooping Cough, Measles, Diphtheria, TB and Tetanus in the OPD at Peshawar and the two Basic Health Units in the Camps.



Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Mr. Gulzar Khan visiting Comite's Carpet Weaving Centre at Peshawar.

PROPOSES PROJECT INSIDE AFGHANISTAN

Animal Husbandry in Kunar and Nooristan

Animal raising is the main source of income in Kunar and Nooristan. Due to warlike condition in the country since 1978 and also because of the large scale migration from Kunar and Nooristan to Pakistan, the animals wealth of the region has dwindled considerably. Since the Agricultural land in the region is not enough because of the mountainous natures of the terrain, the most feasible rehabilitation work concerning food production is to revive Animals Husbandry in the areas. It is intended to help 2,300 families in the first phase of the Project and later cover a total number of 9,300 families over a period of 4 years. The Project will cover the following valleys of Kunar / Nooristan:-

(a) Valley of Haligal.
(b) Valley of Sookay.
(c) Valley of Shahee, Nengata and Sarband.
(d) Valley of Waigal.
(e) Area of Kamdesh.
(f) Valleys of Dewagal, Badel and Mazar.
(g) Valley of Paech.

Under this project, one Cow, two Goats and two Sheep to each family costing approx Rs. 9,000/– will be given. The total cost of the payment spread over 4 years in benefiting 9,300 families including cost of administration, monitoring and extension comes to Rs. 85 million.

BHUs in Asmar, Chowki and Kamdesh in Kunar / Nooristan

This Project will assist 38,000 families of Kunar and Nooristan in health care especially protecting them against Malaria, Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. These BHUs will also serve as immunization centres against the six diseases namely, Whooping cough, Measles, Polio, Diptheria and Tetanus. The estimated cost of the 3 BHUs is approx Rs. 6 million.

Education

As a result of 10 years of war in Afghanistan, education

programmes have been disturbed. Majority of people were deprived of education in the rural areas of Kunar and Nooristan. In many areas even primary schools are not available. Many children remained uneducated and the number of illiterates multiplied. A high school for girls and a high school for boys existed in capital of province Asadabad. Schools upto the 9th grade level for girls and boys in ech districts were also established before the war. There were elementary schools in each Allaqadary but due to the disturbed conditions, these schools have closed, long since. Comite Afghan De Solidarite plans to restore education programmes in the districts of Kunar and Nooristan and priority will be given to revive primary schools, secondary schools and vocational schools. There are about 28,000 families living in the three districts of Kunar and Nooristan and there are about 40,000 children who are expectedly waiting to enter primary schools.

Veterinary Units

To improve the health care of livestock and to protect animals against epidemic diseases an urgent preventive programme is needed to be undertaken. Due to war and lack of animal care units, different types of diseases are prevalent in the region. The reduction of animals due to different diseases and harmful environment is clearly noticeable. The reduction due to abortion before due date, dysentery, loosing of wool and parasitic diseases are seen widely among animals.

Comite Afghan De Solidarite proposes nine dispensary units to undertake preventive programme, each catering for 20,000 to 30,000 heads of animals in districts of Asmar, Choakey and Kamdesh. An emergency programme of vaccination will also be undertaken to protect thousands of animals from epidemic diseases. Such facilities do not exist in the region at the moment.

Agriculture

There is less agricultural land compared to grazing lands in Kunar. Farm lands are located in plain areas down the valleys and alongside the riverbeds. Many farmers have left their villages and they were either displaced inside the valleys or got refuge in Pakistan. Forests wealth of

the area has dwindled considerably due to overcutting. There is no effective plans to save the forests. Agricultural means are elementary in Kunar and no machinery was introduced to the farmers. The war has badly shaken the traditional agricultural structure of this province. The Comite plans to assist more than 28000 families of districts of Asmar, Choakey and Kamdesh. Under this project the local people will be assisted to restore irrigation system for their lands; provide them high yielding seeds and also assisting in buying farm animals and agriculture implements, so that they could stand on their own.



Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Mr. Gulzar Khan admiring the finished product of the Comite's Carpet Centre.

CONCLUSION

The Comite started functioning almost from a scratch. It did not have the patronage of big established organisations of Europe, USA or even the Arab States. Its programmes were, therefore, very modest, according to the means at its disposal. Since the aim and mission of the Comite is to help the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and usefully participate in the rehabilitation/reconstruction stage in Afghanistan, the quantum of work and projects is not an important consideration. The Comite aims at expanding its programme steadily based on experience gained and, of course, the resources available. But, as the famous saying — where there is a will, there is a way.

No. F. 2 (13). AR. VII/87
Government of Pakistan
States and F.R. Division
* * * * *

Islamabad the 13th January, 1988.

To

Mr. M. Nadir,
President of Comite Afghan de Solidarite,
G.P.O. Box 86, University Road, Peshawar.

Subject: REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION OF COMITE AFGHAN DE SOLIDARITE

Please refer to your letter dated the 18th March, 1987 on the above subject..

2. The matter has been considered. This Division has no objection to the registration of "Comite Afghan de Solidarite Canada" as voluntary organization, provided that the relief commodities are chanellized and distributed through Commissioner Afghan Refugees N.W.F.P., Peshawar.

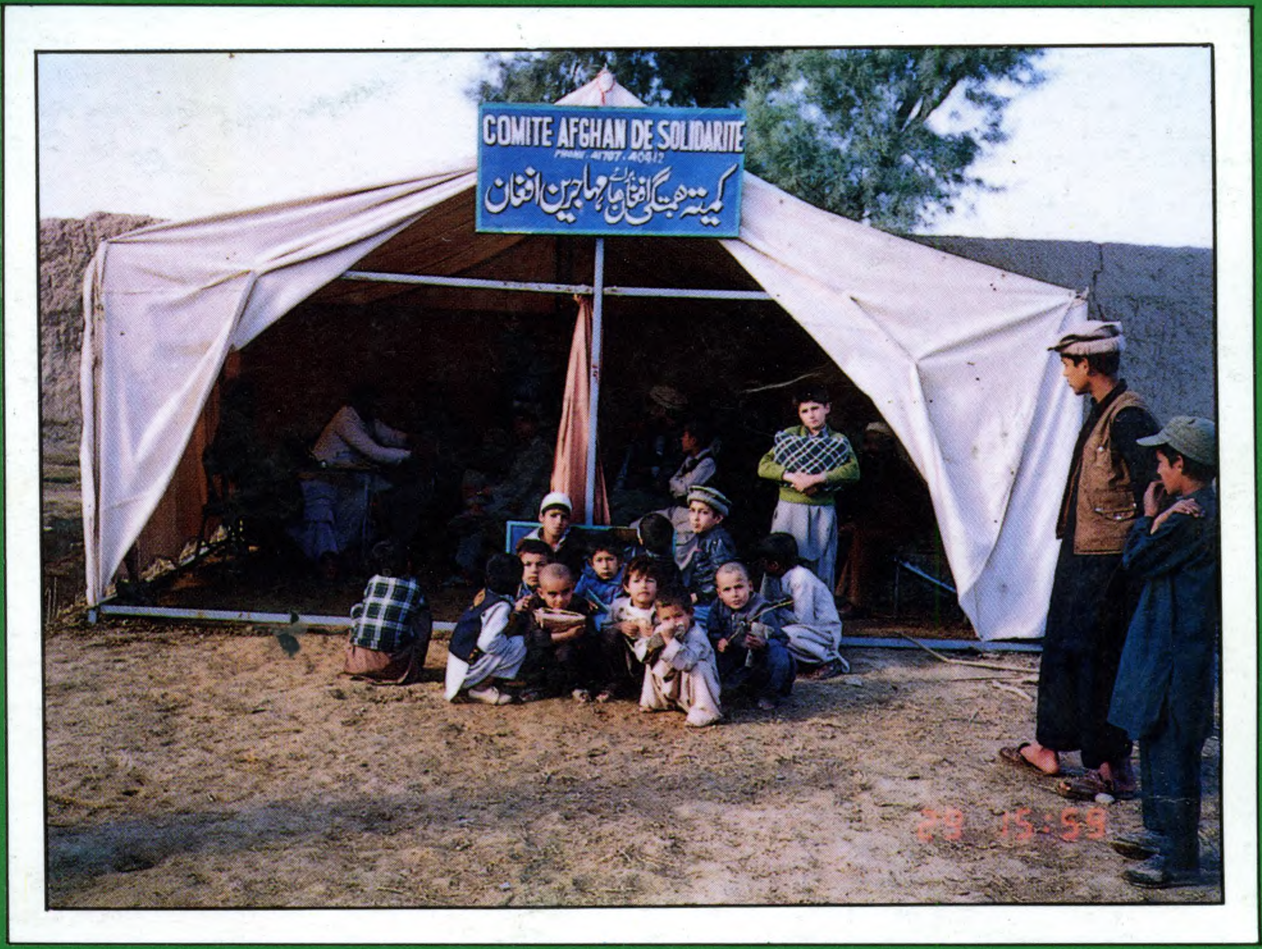
(MEHER KHAN)
SECTION OFFICER
TELE: 826846

Copy forwarded for information to:—

1. The Secretary, Home & T.A. Department, Government of N.W.F.P., Peshawar W/r to their letter No. 7(36) SOAR-II (HD)/87, dated 6th June, 1987.

2. The Commissioner Afghan Refugees N.W.F.P., Peshawar W/r to their Memo No. CAR/ Dev:—111/15372-73, dated 5th May, 1987.

(MEHER KHAN)
SECTION OFFICER


COMITE AFGHAN DE SOLIDARITE
PHONE : 41707 . 40612
کمیته همبستگی افغانها برای مهاجرین افغان
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